

MICHIGAN AERONAUTICS COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting
Lansing, Michigan
November 18, 2020

Pursuant to Section 31 of Act 327 of the Public Acts of 1945, and recommendations to prevent the spread of Covid-19, the Commissioners of the Michigan Aeronautics Commission (MAC) met via video conference call, on Wednesday, November 18, 2020.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT and LOCATION ATTENDING FROM

Rick Fiddler, Chair – Ada, Michigan
Russ Kavalhuna, Vice Chair – Taylor, Michigan
Dr. Brian Smith, Commissioner – Detroit, Michigan
Roger Salo, Commissioner – Plymouth, Michigan
Kelly Burris, Commissioner – Detroit, Michigan
Brig. Gen. Bryan Teff, Designee MDMVA – Lansing, Michigan
Laura Mester, Designee MDOT – Riley Township, Michigan
Kevin Jacobs, Designee MDNR – Roscommon, Michigan
F/Lt. Brian Bahlau, Designee MSP – Lansing, Michigan
Mike Trout, Director – Clarkston, Michigan
Bryan Budds, Commission Advisor – Howell, Michigan
Alicia Morrison, Commission Analyst – Lansing, Michigan

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

None

I. OPENING REMARKS

Director Mike Trout began by explaining the meeting was being held via video conference call in accordance with recommendations to slow the spread of COVID-19. He welcomed all who were participating and thanked the Commissioners for coming together in the virtual format. He then turned the meeting over to Chairperson Rick Fiddler.

The November 18, 2020 MAC meeting was officially called to order by Chair Rick Fiddler at 10:02 am.

Chair Fiddler thanked the Commissioners and all in attendance on the call for participating.

Chair Fiddler asked for a formal roll call. Roll call was taken. It was announced all nine (9) Commissioners were present for a quorum.

II. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Minutes of the September 16, 2020 Meeting



Chair Fiddler asked if there were any revisions to the minutes of the meeting held on September 16, 2020. There were none. He entertained a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was moved by Vice Chair Russ Kavalhuna and seconded by Commissioner Roger Salo to approve the minutes as presented. A majority roll call vote was conducted. **All voted in favor. Chair Fiddler announced the motion is carried.**

B. 2021 Michigan Aeronautics Commission (MAC) Meeting Schedule

Chair Fiddler asked if there were any corrections or changes to the draft schedule, noting the locations and format of the meetings may change based on Covid-19 directives in place at the time of the meeting occurrence.

Commissioner Brian Smith stated there was a conflict with the July meeting date and he would either be unavailable to attend or need to attend virtually. Commissioner Burris suggested the meeting be held in Oshkosh, Wisconsin in conjunction with the other event. Commission Designee Laura Mester stated meeting in Wisconsin may pose issues for state employees from both a budget and perception standpoint. It was decided to leave the date as stated for now with the understanding that it may be changed as we get closer to July.

Chair Fiddler then asked for a motion to approve the proposed schedule. The motion was moved by Commissioner Brian Smith and seconded by Vice Chair Russ Kavalhuna to approve the 2021 MAC schedule as presented. A majority roll call vote was conducted. **All voted in favor. Chair Fiddler announced the motion is carried.**

C. Request for Approval and Transfer of Appropriated Funds

Chair Fiddler called on Alissa VanHoof who then presented the Airport Sponsor Contracts and Supplemental Transfers.

Airport Sponsor Contracts

1. Atlanta Municipal Airport, Atlanta
2. Beaver Island Airport, Beaver Island
3. Frankfort Dow Memorial Field, Frankfort
4. Sandusky City Airport, Sandusky

Supplemental Transfers – No Action Required

1. Grosse Ile Municipal Airport, Grosse Ile

Chair Fiddler asked if there were any further comments or questions.

Commissioner Kevin Jacobs asked whether the Atlanta airport parcel acquisition would allow the displaced threshold to be reduced? Office of Aeronautics (Aero) staff member Jen Moore answered, yes, they are trying to acquire three parcels, this is the first and they hope to regain the displaced threshold. Commissioner Brian Smith questioned whether any of the obstructions discussed were occupied



buildings for Atlanta or any of the airports. Jen Moore answered, no except for Frankfort.

Chair Fiddler then asked for a motion to approve the transfers. The motion was moved by Commissioner Roger Salo and seconded by Vice Chair Russ Kavalhuna to approve the transfers as presented. A majority roll call vote was conducted. **All voted in favor. Chair Fiddler announced the motion is carried.**

A complete list of contract descriptions can be viewed at www.michigan.gov/aero under the Commission tab.

D. Weather Systems 2021 Contract Approval

Chair Fiddler called on Mike Soper who then presented the 2021 Weather Systems Contracts.

Automated Weather Observation Systems (AWOS)

1. Sawyer International Airport, Gwinn – Expires 10/11/2021
2. Fremont Municipal Airport, Fremont – Expires 10/22/2021

Weather Briefing Systems

3. Abrams Municipal Airport, Grand Ledge – Expires 10/3/21

Chair Fiddler asked whether anyone has investigated the cost of replacing the whole system. Mike Soper responded that the AWOS Task Force is meeting and discussing replacement options. There are two systems available for replacement when the current ones become obsolete. Commissioner Salo asked what it would take to replace an individual system versus system wide and commented on the need for financial planning. Mike Soper stated a basic upgrade is estimated at \$80,000 - \$100,000 based on the components needed. Commissioner Salo then asked if specific parts could be replaced instead of whole system. Mr. Soper answered that it is possible but depends on the manufacturer.

Chair Fiddler then asked if there were any revisions to the contracts as presented or additional questions. There were none. He entertained a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was moved by Commissioner Roger Salo and seconded by Commissioner Brian Smith to approve the contracts as presented. A majority roll call vote was conducted. **All voted in favor. Chair Fiddler announced the motion is carried.**

E. Michigan Association of Airport Executives (MAAE) 2021 Contract Approval

Chair Fiddler called on Director Mike Trout who then presented the 2021 MAAE contract. A summary of the contract award can be viewed at www.michigan.gov/aero under the Commission tab.

Chair Fiddler asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, he entertained a motion to approve the contract. The motion was moved by Commissioner Kelly Burris and seconded by Commissioner Roger Salo to approve

the contract as presented. A majority roll call vote was conducted. **All voted in favor. Chair Fiddler announced the motion is carried.**

III. REPORTS

A. MAC Director's Report

Chair Fiddler called on Director Trout who then presented his report.

Director Trout began with a Covid-19 pandemic update stating positive cases are up throughout the state. The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) has submitted their required Covid Exposure Plan to the Office of the State Employer. Virtual meetings telework and the Aero building closure will continue through January 2.

Director Trout shared an overview of fiscal year (FY) 2021 grant totals. Aero processed 46 grants totaling \$337,909,151 during this time. CARES Act grants accounted for \$256,958,769, primary Airport Improvement Program (AIP) grants \$53,970,699 and State Block grants \$41,684,549.

Director Trout discussed the aviation excise fuel tax revenue. The FY 2020 total was \$3,899,820, representing a -28 percent decrease from FY 2019.

Director Trout presented the FY 2020 Aero appropriation and adjusted budget. The breakdown is as follows: Aviation Services \$5,699,000 (adjusted), Air Fleet Operations \$1,000,000 (adjusted), Airport Improvement Program \$2,568,000 (state apportionment), and Air Service Program \$50,000. He then shared the FY 2021 boilerplate requirements restoring Section 383 Aircraft Travel Report, restoring Section 801 Carryforward of State Aeronautics Fund Unobligated Funds, and restoring Section 901 Capital Outlay Match Requirements. All other FY 2020 boilerplates including Section 324, 802, 804, 805 and 806 are no longer applicable for FY 2021.

Director Trout brought awareness to the PFAS investigations currently being conducted at several Michigan airports. There are growing liability concerns to be aware of with state involvement by MDOT, Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE), MAAE and Michigan Business Aviation Association. Issues of revenue use and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) standards will elevate this to a national conversation including the FAA, National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO), National Business Aviation Association, Environmental Protection Agency, and others to find a cooperative solution.

Director Trout noted FY 2020 stats from the Office of Aeronautics which include 5,119 aircraft registrations processed, 115 dealer licenses issued, 48 flight school licenses issued, 5,172 tall structure permit applications reviewed and processed, 113 airport development projects and a total of 353.20 state aircraft flight hours.



Director Trout highlighted current aeronautic issues and events including Implicit Bias Training completed by all state employees, Aero's participation in the NASAO Art Contest; celebration of drone safety week November 16-20; new Aero PM software will go-live December 2020; Aero's participation volunteering at the Greater Lansing Food Bank; the January 2020 joint meeting with the MAC and State Transportation Commission; and the virtual Michigan Airport Conference February 17-18. He then gave recognition to several Aero staff members – Betsy Steudle for her work on Aero PM, Laura Wise for exceptional customer service, and Zach Tecson for a statewide Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) data presentation. He also offered congratulations to Bryan Budds on the birth of his baby girl in October.

Director Trout concluded his presentation with an introduction of a UAS aerial mobility initiative. He presented data on the fast growth of drone use and pilots across the United States, more than doubling since 2017. He discussed FAA's integration approach and noted the importance of partnerships. Director Trout discussed current activities taking place in the state including mission flights, UAS Task Force formation, partnerships with Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) Office of Future Mobility and Electrification (OFME), the development of a mobility corridor in southeast Michigan, and the development of a feasibility study Request for Proposals (RFP). He highlighted the UAS Program Area concept sharing a mission and strategic goals, as well as a draft organization chart of what the new area may look like and how it will function as a joint effort between agencies. He summarized the next steps for the initiative including finalizing an RFP, identifying key staff and partners, formalizing a strategy, and developing budget and funding needs.

Commissioner Kelly Burris asked if there were statistics specific to Michigan versus national for the number of registered drone pilots. Director Trout responded that he did not have that information but would research and provide it.

Commissioner Brian Smith suggested the Aero food bank volunteering initiative be expanded to include others as a collaborative effort. Director Trout agreed this would be a good idea but may not be feasible until Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.

Director Trout then introduced Mr. Trevor Pawl, Chief Mobility Officer for MEDC OFME to present on Michigan's vision for mobility and electrification in the state.

Director Trout's presentation can be found at www.michigan.gov/aero under the Commission tab.

IV. PRESENTATION

A. MEDC Office for Future Mobility and Electrification

Mr. Trevor Pawl, Chief Mobility Officer, began by sharing the vision of a stronger state economy through safer, more equitable and environmentally conscious transportation for all Michigan residents. He shared six core objectives: grow mobility industry in Michigan, engage more mobility startups, expand Michigan's Smart infrastructure, accelerate electric vehicle adoption in Michigan, enable Michigan's mobility workforce, and bolster Michigan's mobility manufacturing core.

Mr. Pawl stated the OFME will coordinate a statewide mobility strategy championed by the Governor's Office, MDOT, Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity, MEDC and EGLE, with each agency focusing on their respective area of expertise.

Mr. Pawl touted accomplishments from July – October 2020 including the development of a self-driving corridor between Detroit and Ann Arbor, an autonomous shuttle to assist senior communities to hospital visits in Detroit, various autonomous Covid-19 mobility solutions, automated garage valet parking in downtown Detroit, building digital infrastructure in the sky, maritime mobility grants in the Upper Peninsula, accelerator startup in Detroit, and the appointed Council on Future Mobility and Electrification to advise state government on policy related to the initiative.

Mr. Pawl concluded his presentation by emphasizing Michigan's opportunity to become a global leader in commercial drone use and development due to the reliance on the same foundational autonomous, connected, shared and electric technologies converging different modes of transportation together. He thanked the Commission for the opportunity to share.

Commissioner Kelly Burris asked if there were regular email updates or social media sites to access information. Mr. Pawl responded they are a startup office and those are still under development, however, major initiatives are shared through regular press releases.

Mr. Pawl's presentation can be found at www.michigan.gov/aero under the Commission tab.

V. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Chair Fiddler asked if any Commissioners would like to make a comment. There were none.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Fiddler asked if anyone would like to make a public comment.

Mr. Tory Richardson, President and Chief Executive Officer, Gerald R. Ford International Airport in Grand Rapids commended Director Trout, the Office of



Aeronautics and the MAC for their support and assistance on the environmental impact of PFAS issues. He stated there are new challenges for airports including revenue use and FAA involvement. He stated a collaborative response is needed to this. He respectfully requested MAC and Aero's support in asking EGLE to work with the airports rather than against them which may cause a negative reaction.

Chair Fiddler thanked Mr. Richardson for his comments.

CLOSING

The next MAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 21, 2021, as a joint meeting with the State Transportation Commission. The location and format of the meeting will be determined by Covid-19 recommendations in place at that time.

Chair Fiddler thanked the Commissioners, Office of Aeronautics staff, and the public for their participation today, reminding everyone that information presented today could be found at www.michigan.gov/aero or by calling 517-335-9568.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Rick Fiddler, Chairman

Michael G. Trout, Director

